UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
28th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 4 November 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

92-57489 6359S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.28
27 November 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

/...

In the absence of Mr. Krenkel (Austria), Mr. Dékány (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

1. Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the illicit drug trade, which generated networks of organized crime and constituted a threat to the social, economic and political fabric of society, must be combated through intensified action by the international community. No action programme in that sphere could be truly effective unless it had a world-wide scope, since the drug trade was an evil that affected producing, transit and consuming countries alike.

2. The European Community and its member States held the view that the United Nations provided a necessary focal point for cooperation in the fight against all aspects of illicit drugs trafficking. For that reason, it had participated in a number of initiatives, including the adoption of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and urged all States to ratify that international instrument and to apply provisionally the measures contained therein pending its entry into force for each of them.

3. The Twelve had also participated in the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, which had adopted the Global Programme of Action (resolution S-17/2), and in the World Ministerial Summit, at which the London Declaration of May 1990 had been approved. At regional level, it had participated in the Pan-European Ministerial Conference on drug abuse held in 1991.

4. The idea of concentrating all United Nations activities in the fight against illicit drugs trafficking into a single body, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP), had proved fruitful, though it needed more voluntary contributions and also more appropriations from the regular budget. It was clear, however, that in view of the financial situation of the United Nations and of national Governments, a substantial increase in the resources available to the Programme would not be possible, and that the United Nations system and the international financial institutions must cooperate closely with UNIDCP so as to strengthen its activities.

5. Measures adopted at the regional and subregional levels, emanating from forums such as the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), would always be an essential complement to international

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

measures. The Twelve thus supported the UNIDCP initiative to convene regional technical consultation meetings in Islamabad and Beirut. Within the European Community, member States were cooperating through a group of senior intergovernmental drugs coordinators (CELAD), and through the Trevi Group, consisting of Ministers of Justice and of the Interior. The European Council in Maastricht had also agreed to establish a European Drugs Monitoring Centre which would provide the Community and its member States with comparable data on narcotic drugs.

6. The European Community had designated the week of 16 to 22 November 1992 as European Drug Prevention Week. Among the activities planned for the occasion was a two-day conference in London on drug prevention. The Twelve were also cooperating with other European countries in that field, through the Council of Europe's Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group). The European Council in Luxembourg had also agreed to establish a European criminal investigation office, to be known as Europol, with a drugs unit which would come into being on 1 January 1993.

7. The Twelve accorded high priority to preventing the use of precursor chemicals for illicit purposes and, to that end, continued to cooperate with the Chemical Action Task Force, which had successfully built on the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention. In that context, the European Community supported the resolution passed by the Economic and Social Council in June 1992, which envisaged the transfer to UNIDCP of work currently done by the Task Force. The European Community had adopted legislation fully implementing the recommendations of the Chemical Action Task Force in relation to trade in precursor chemicals with third countries. It was also involved in the initiatives to secure application of those recommendations in other countries, particularly in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

8. It was essential that all Governments should adopt legislation making the laundering of money derived from production of and illicit trafficking in drugs a criminal offence, and freezing and confiscating the assets of drug traffickers. The European Community supported the work done in that field by the Financial Action Task Force on Money-laundering and had prepared a directive, which would come into force on 1 January 1993, on the prevention of the use of Community member States' financial systems for the purpose of money laundering, which incorporated the core recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

9. The European Community believed that illicit trafficking in drugs could be reduced through improved cooperation between customs authorities, international carriers, exporters and importers, and had thus been fully involved in the Customs Cooperation Council's initiative in that area, set up at the request of the London Economic Summit in 1991.

10. The European Community and its member States would continue to cooperate with developing countries to assist them in combating drug abuse and the

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

illicit production and distribution of drugs. That commitment had been reflected in various recent cooperation agreements concluded between the European Community and developing countries.

11. Lastly, recognizing the importance of an integrated approach to all aspects of the drug problem, the European Community had made voluntary contributions to UNIDCP, and was providing substantial bilateral assistance for crops substitution, integrated rural development, and prevention and law enforcement in the field of drug abuse.

12. Ms. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America) said that three years previously the international community had joined forces to declare war on the illicit drug industry, a scourge that constituted a grave threat to development, democracy and economic stability. The illicit narcotics trade was diversifying supply and opening up new markets: consumption of cocaine was on the increase in Europe, Asia and Africa, and traffickers were opening up new circuits in the newly independent States, in Eastern Europe, and in Afghanistan. The costs of that expansion in the illicit drugs trade could be measured in terms of escalating violence, crime, rehabilitation costs, lost productivity and weakened economies. Farmers had also to compete with rivals financed by narco-dollars. That expansion of the narcotic drug industry must be met with more coordinated and effective efforts at national and international levels within the United Nations system.

13. In the United States of America, the world's largest consumer of illicit drugs, the main problem was to bring about a reduction in domestic consumption. To that end, the Federal Government was funding programmes to the tune of $2.3 billion, double the level of only three years previously.

14. The past three years had seen a greater international political commitment to the fight against drugs, which had led to some significant changes. Those changes included a reduction in world-wide coca cultivation, and in opium production in Thailand, Laos and Mexico; increased political will in South-East and South-West Asia to take concrete action to combat narcotics production; the holding of the San Antonio Summit; and the destruction of a 6,000-hectare opium poppy plantation in Colombia. There had also been important advances in controlling the precursor chemicals necessary to produce cocaine, heroin and other drugs.

15. If progress was to be sustained, however, multilateral efforts were needed. It was thus encouraging to note that 14 additional countries had ratified the 1988 Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 69. Moreover, the Economic and Social Council had decided to bolster the Convention by adopting a resolution aimed at promoting maritime cooperation, and important progress had been made in cooperative efforts to curb drug money laundering.

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

16. Her Government was pleased to see that UNIDCP was playing a leading role in activities to curb the drug trade. It also welcomed the expansion of United Nations anti-drug strategies as reflected in the subregional projects launched in South-East Asia; the latter had set the stage for similar activities in other areas, including the newly independent States. She commended the Executive Director of UNIDCP for the flexibility he had shown in preparing a strategy for future initiatives. However, with an annual budget of approximately $80 million, the Programme could not be expected to fight such an enormous problem alone. Member States must energize the entire United Nations system.

17. There had been encouraging signs that the goal of making drug control an integral part of United Nations priority programmes was being achieved. For example, UNIDCP had held meetings in Islamabad and Beirut to identify regional drug problems and coordinate assistance. The meetings had included active participation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as other donors and recipients.

18. Given the adverse effects of the drug trade on the economy, development, inflation, interest rates and currency reserves, there was a clear need for financial institutions and international organizations to become involved in measures designed to eradicate it. UNDP, whose main interest was development, should give high priority to combating drugs and ensure that development programmes did not help encourage drug production. When designing their programmes, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should consider the impact on agriculture of the cultivation of the opium poppy, coca and cannabis, in order to promote agricultural development without, at the same time, encouraging the production of illicit crops. In view of the strong connection between food shortages, or the fear of shortages, and the increase in narcotics production and trafficking, WFP could link the provision of supplementary food rations for local farmers to crop substitution efforts.

19. Research should continue under the Programme on Substance Abuse of the World Health Organization (WHO) in several key areas, including street children, poly-drug use and perceptions on abuse, and the Programme should establish official contacts with national agencies to share the information they collected. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) should design projects aimed at children who were addicted, or at risk of becoming addicted, to drugs, particularly those living on the streets. Other United Nations agencies, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), were making commendable efforts to rid the workplace of substance abuse; in that connection, she drew attention to the conference concerning drugs in the workplace held in September under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNIDCP.

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

20. Refugee groups were easy prey for the drug industry in countries such as Afghanistan; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) could play an active role in Afghanistan and Pakistan by including drug-awareness campaigns in education programmes for returning refugees and by securing commitments from competent officials in the region to the objectives of the fight against drugs.

21. Her delegation encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNIDCP to join forces to make the international community more aware of the environmental dangers posed by drug cultivation and production. At local level, field offices and resident representatives should take the drug problem into account in managing and planning programmes.

22. Given that the Member States had resolved to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs, her delegation urged all Governments to support a resolution designed to strengthen further the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, calling upon the individual agencies associated with the Action Plan to draw up their own implementing plans. Member States must lend their support and reaffirm their commitment through their representatives to the various United Nations agencies. Her country was ready to work with the United Nations and with other nations to increase the commitment, vigour and effectiveness of the world-wide war against drugs.

23. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) took the Chair.

24. Mr. SERRATE CUELLAR (Bolivia) said that drugs were a threat to democracy, development and peace. Nevertheless, it was in that context that the problem must be discussed, since the solution lay in strengthening the workings of those three elements. The fight against drugs must move from theory to practice, with less planning and more action, less debate and more results.

25. The importance attached to the issue appeared to be diminishing just when definite progress was being made; the Third Committee must re-examine the issue from the perspective of the social victims of drug trafficking and the social actors who were fighting to eradicate drugs. To begin with, a clear distinction must be drawn between victims and offenders. The international dimension of the problem had led to recognition of the need for differentiated treatment and wider acceptance of the concept of shared responsibility by the international community.

26. The three pillars of the anti-drug strategy pursued by his country were alternative development, interdiction and prevention. Alternative development was being pursued through short-, medium-, and long-term programmes. The short-term programmes sought to mitigate the socio-economic impact of crop reduction until long-term investments bore fruit. In the medium term, programmes were being developed to diversify production, with a view to strengthening export capacity and contributing to the country's food

(Mr. Serrate Cuellar, Bolivia)

security. Conservation of genetic, ecological and productive potential was being encouraged so that the process of reducing coca plantations and diversifying production would not have an adverse environmental impact.

27. Reducing coca production affected the poorest sectors of the population in particular and so it was vital to enhance the economic viability of the process. Substitute products must be cost-effective and to that end international cooperation was essential. In that connection, he stressed the importance of the enactment by the United States of America of legislation on Andean trade preference and the decision by the European Economic Community to include Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in its system of tariff preferences, thus increasing the export opportunities for various agricultural and industrial products.

28. Her country was justifiably proud that it was meeting the world-wide threat posed by drugs by seeking concurrently to promote financial stability, economic development and social peace. It now had the lowest inflation rate in South America and hoped to be the first developing country to resolve the problem of commercial debt to foreign banks.

29. With regard to interdiction, Bolivia was carrying out an operation called "Largo aliento" whose central goal was to monitor the entire area where coca leaf was produced in order to prohibit the entry of precursors, to monitor movements of surplus coca leaf production and to prevent it from being carried to any paste and sulphate laboratories that might exist. A system of supervision of commercial transactions in chemical products likely to be used as precursors had been established, under which any company or plant using that type of product had to be registered and to obtain the necessary licence.

30. With regard to efforts to combat drug trafficking, mention should be made of two recent operations: "Tango", which had made it possible to disrupt the entire financial infrastructure, logistics and operations of a major criminal gang, and "Oso de Oro" which had led to the seizure of 700 kilograms of cocaine and the dismantling of a large factory which had been exporting more than one ton of drugs per week. In that respect, his delegation reiterated the crucial distinction between the indigenous coca farmer and his crop, on the one hand, and the drug trafficker and cocaine, on the other. The coca leaf had been traditionally used to treat more than 60 ailments in the Andes and had an important role in Bolivia's socio-cultural customs.

31. On the institutional front, in addition to existing organizations, a national council against drug abuse and illicit trafficking had been established in Bolivia, together with national commissions on illicit drug trafficking and commissions on alternative development and integrated prevention. With regard to integrated prevention of drug abuse, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, an extensive information, education and health programme was being carried out and far-reaching reforms had been made to the correctional and judicial systems.

(Mr. Serrate Cuellar, Bolivia)

32. It was unfortunate that sufficient priority had not been given to reducing the demand for drugs. In that regard, the United Nations system had a responsibility to undertake effective action to promote the United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse and to achieve the goals that had been set for the Decade. It was also important to carry out a study on the concept of swapping debt for alternative development, as recommended in resolution 2 (XXXV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Lastly, it was vital to bear in mind at all times the ethical dimension of the fight against drugs.

33. Mrs. KABA CAMARA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that Côte d'Ivoire had set up an interministerial committee to coordinate the fight against drugs and had adopted laws instituting heavier prison sentences and fines for violations of drug legislation. Measures had also been adopted to speed up the extradition process and to prevent the laundering of money from drug trafficking.

34. Côte d'Ivoire was grateful for the assistance provided at the regional and national levels by UNIDCP and hoped that such assistance would intensify both in the area of prevention and in terms of the organization of the regional struggle.

35. Her delegation was of the view that a programme of research into the socio-economic and political consequences of the production, illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs could make it easier to adopt measures designed to reduce, or even stop such consequences. Whatever the case, it believed that an analysis of the social, economic and psychological causes of drug abuse and the factors affecting it would be extremely valuable for the adoption of a strategy at the preventive stage.

36. In Côte d'Ivoire two factors had been identified as contributing to drug abuse. Firstly, increased urbanization as a result of the rural exodus and immigration, which was changing social structures. The absence of any structure or social machinery to receive immigrants reduced the likelihood of their finding work. Hence the need to adopt measures to improve living and working conditions in rural areas, in order to check the rural exodus. The second element involved factors relating to individuals themselves and the influence of their milieu. The influence exerted on adolescents by their peers, school, sports and closest relationships could not be overemphasized. Parents and educators had the responsibility to protect adolescents and to inform them of the tragic consequences of drug use.

37. Her delegation wished to stress the importance of prevention through the organization of an intensive campaign against drug abuse during the current decade. The campaign must reach the most vulnerable sectors of society and involve the mass media, non-governmental organizations, schools, sports, health and religious centres, all types of associations and all of society's human resources.

(Mrs. Kaba Camara, Côte d'Ivoire)

38. Another aspect that caused deep concern was the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts to allow them to take their place in society. In view of the serious shortage of resources and qualified staff, the help provided by UNIDCP and WHO in training specialized personnel was most welcome. Drug treatment centres were needed to help those who wished to give up drugs, change their way of life and make a fresh start.

39. The Global Programme of Action provided for the mobilization of additional financial resources in support of United Nations activities to combat drugs. However, the Executive Director of UNIDCP had expressed concern over the inadequacy of the funds compared to the huge tasks entrusted to him. Her delegation believed that in order to attain the objective of the Global Programme of Action it would be necessary to devote part of the funds confiscated from drug traffickers to financing the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. There were already regional and bilateral agreements that provided for the distribution of the property confiscated and seized, although such measures remained incomplete as they disregarded the central control body. The laws and practices of each country, as well as bilateral and regional agreements should provide for the allocation of a fixed percentage of the funds confiscated to finance the Programme's activities. In addition, the developed countries should increase their voluntary contributions to the Fund to enable it to complete its projects in the poor countries and to support regional efforts and international cooperation. Unless the Organization had sufficient financial resources to underpin the struggle against drug trafficking, the consequences could prove disastrous.

40. Mr. JAEGER (Austria) said that the United Nations had never had so strong and effective a programme as UNIDCP and it was logical that individual States and groups of States should make more and more use of the experience accumulated by the Programme. Recently, the so-called Dublin Group (to which all the member States of the European Economic Community belonged, as well as the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Sweden) had asked UNIDCP to act as coordinator of their regional programmes for Eastern Europe; because of the Programme's multidisciplinary and world-wide approach, close cooperation had also developed with the Financial Action Task Force on money laundering.

41. Austria was in favour of such international cooperation since it could eliminate duplication and overlapping and increase the efficiency of every institution and organization involved, both at the national and global levels. However, in spite of the achievements of the Programme, there was no denying that each Member State must continue to take primary responsibility for combating drug abuse. Member States had guidelines which they could use for that task and there were a variety of international instruments to guarantee success in that field.

42. The Austrian Government was drafting amendments to its Narcotic Drugs Act of 1951 so that Austria would be able to accede to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. In the meantime, although it had not yet acceded to

(Mr. Jaeger, Austria)

the Convention, it had adopted Schedules I and II and applied all the control measures set out in the Convention. As for Schedules III and IV, various Austrian laws regulated the administrative and legal requirements, such as the legislation on pharmaceutical products and medical prescriptions, and Austria systematically submitted all the necssary information to the International Narcotics Control Board.

43. With regard to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/146, the Austrian Government was enacting new regulations on money-laundering activities, including concealment of the true nature of illicit transactions, transfers of assets and the use of profits derived from crime; once the new legal provisions were in force, Austria would be able to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. With regard to other implementing laws and regulations, the Secretary-General had listed Austria in his report (A/47/378) as one of the 34 States that were not yet parties to the Convention but were implementing various provisions of it.

44. As a result of the political, economic and social changes that had taken place in the countries of Eastern Europe, organized and transnational crime related to drug abuse was on the increase in the region. In 1991 there had been more heroin of a higher concentration and at lower prices on the Austrian illicit market. A large proportion had come from Eastern Europe, but the principal route remained the so-called "Balkan route". The number of drug-related crimes in Austria had increased by 11 per cent in 1991, and, what was worse, the number of drug-related deaths had increased by about 40 per cent. Unfortunately, the 1992 statistics available thus far reflected a similar situation.

45. Austria sought to combat the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances on different levels, and one of its strategic objectives was to attack the drug trade at its most vulnerable point: the financial side. The change in Austria's penal code with regard to money laundering would give the Austrian authorities in that area an effective tool. Furthermore, institutionalized cooperation with various organizations of the United Nations system and with different international groups and bodies ensured that all the measures taken by Austria were coordinated at the international level. Regional cooperation in Europe would no doubt increase in the future, as had been recognized at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

46. The other traditional strategy in the fight against drug abuse involved reducing and controlling demand by various means. Austrian policy for many years had been to prevent rather than cure and to cure rather than punish; accordingly, information was provided to the population on the tremendous health risks of drug consumption. Priority was given to information campaigns aimed at young people, and the proposed changes to the Narcotic Drugs Act would reinforce that policy.

(Mr. Jaeger, Austria)

47. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control had made better use of the mass media one of its objectives. At the national level, the competent Austrian authorities had drawn up plans to seek more effective support from the media, in accordance with the Outline. As complementary measures, various forms of treatment with different therapeutic purposes were being provided, and the methadone treatment had been introduced in 1987. All those measures were intended to lead to total recovery from addiction and the reintegration of as many people as possible into society.

48. Mr. CAMPOS (Chile) said that his country fully supported the endeavours of the United Nations to tackle the serious problem of drugs. It was essential to maintain and reinforce joint international efforts, both bilateral and multilateral, inside and outside the United Nations system and at the government and non-governmental levels, to eradicate the harmful consequences of the drug scourge. It was essential that such joint action should be carried out within the legal framework of international law, since the fight against the drug trade could not serve as grounds for unlawfulness nor could it legitimize behaviour that violated the basic norms of coexistence which sovereign States had chosen voluntarily to observe.

49. His delegation considered General Assembly resolution 46/101 to be entirely valid and attached great importance to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, particularly to article 7. International legal cooperation played a fundamental role in the fight against drug trafficking, and for that reason Chile had joined in sponsoring resolution 4 (XXXV), which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted at its thirty-fifth session.

50. Chile had studied the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-fifth session with great interest and wholeheartedly endorsed the strategy for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme which it contained. Chile fully agreed that overcoming the drug problem in all its aspects required a global approach that would place the problem in a framework that took economic and social factors into account. While it was true that that scourge cut across all social strata, it could not be denied that in most States the problem was at its most severe in the poorest sectors of society. The social marginalization caused by poverty, the idleness generated by unemployment, the inadequacy of public services to meet the needs of growing urban populations, the lack of education and the absence of appropriate family models were among the factors likely to encourage drug abuse, production, trafficking and distribution. Chile also supported the adoption of a fresh perspective on the interaction between reducing the demand for illicit drugs and reducing their supply.

51. Undoubtedly, one of the most effective means of combating drug trafficking was adequate control of the manufacture, distribution, export and import of the chemical precursors without which drugs could not be produced.

(Mr. Campos, Chile)

To that end, Chile had vigorously supported, in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the inclusion of ten additional substances in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention. In the inter-American context, Chile was an active member of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) which was preparing a model regulation on chemical precursors. On the domestic front, the Chilean Congress was examining legislation that would set up strict controls on movement in and out of the country of chemical precursors and would severely punish their diversion.

52. Given of the complexity of the problems generated by drug consumption, production and trafficking, and since they had social, economic, cultural and sometimes political implications, it was important to take an overall view of such problems and adopt global policies and programmes. Endeavours must be combined and coordinated; to that end, every country should set up an interdisciplinary national commission or council to coordinate all such activities, in order to optimize resources and integrate the efforts of all parties. It was for such a purpose that the Chilean Government had established the National Council for the Control of Narcotic Drugs, an experience it wished to share.

53. From another perspective, the need to continue pursuing prevention policies and programmes must be stressed, for it was only to the extent to which all members of society truly understood the effects of drug use that determined whether that scourge could be eradicated. Chile was conducting activities on several fronts: for example, the Ministry of Education was implementing training programmes on prevention for classroom teachers, while the National Youth Institute and the National Office for Women had established information centres which had the prevention of drug use as one of their major tasks.

54. In view of the economic factors affecting drug production, his delegation wanted to see economic conversion programmes continued in geographical areas with significant production. By way of example, marijuana production in the Aconcagua Valley was far below 1960s levels because that crop had been replaced by hemp plantations, orchards and vineyards.

55. In the area of legislation, a special commission of the Chamber of Deputies had been working for over a year to draft legislation making money laundering a criminal offence. In the same area, the use and protection of undercover agents was currently being regulated, and the regulations on drug consumption were being harmonized with the United Nations Convention of 1988, which had been ratified by Chile as an Act of the Republic.

56. It was clear that drug trafficking and consumption had become an international issue. Consequently, all countries should make their drug legislation uniform. Disparities not only gave rise to major contradictions, but were taken advantage of by traffickers. Furthermore, given that some drug-related crimes were truly crimes against humanity, the international

(Mr. Campos, Chile)

community should express its will in the matter not only through extradition and law-enforcement assistance treaties, but also by making it possible to initiate criminal proceedings at the highest level. Likewise, international agreements should be reviewed so that such proceedings could be instituted for some narcotics offences in any State, regardless of where the offence was committed, in order to ensure prompt and effective justice and to demonstrate the international community's commitment to combating that scourge.

57. Mr. Dékány (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

58. Mr. MOULTRIE (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that all reports, including that of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1991, confirmed that the severity of the drug problem had not diminished. The need to strengthen and rationalize the international response to that phenomenon had been the major catalyst for the current United Nations strategy for drug abuse control, which had been made concrete through the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, among other things. From the reports of the Secretary-General on narcotic drugs, it was evident that the Programme was beginning to meet expectations for its leadership role in drug control within the United Nations system. The States members of CARICOM were in full agreement with the Programme's goal of establishing a drug abuse control agenda that was balanced in the principal areas of production, trafficking and demand with regard to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. They particularly supported the emphasis placed on demand reduction in order to achieve a balance in drug control activities.

59. Because of their location, the CARICOM States were particularly vulnerable to illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, which, it was acknowledged, could cause a dramatic increase in drug abuse in transit States. To attack that problem, Jamaica, in conjunction with the International Drug Control Programme, had developed an integrated demand reduction programme for the subregion which had been well received, especially by the major donors to the Programme Fund.

60. In view of the importance of an accurate assessment of the problem, the progress made by the Programme in the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System should be noted. The Caribbean Community continued to urge that drug abuse prevention strategies should include treatment and rehabilitation components. The strategies designed or expanded by the Programme would gain wide acceptance because they offered the prospect of meeting national, regional and international objectives for drug abuse control. The CARICOM States had received assistance from the Programme in elaborating national drug control master plans; however, such strategies must be complemented by effective interregional strategies, given the nature of the problem.

(Mr. Moultrie, Bahamas)

61. The Programme's emphasis on alternative development was particularly significant for developing countries implementing structural adjustment programmes and struggling to service their foreign debt. If initiatives in that sector were to succeed, the value of cash-crop substitutes must be close to that of the illicit crops they replaced if the standard of living of poor farmers was not to deteriorate further. Another essential factor was guaranteed access to international markets and fair export prices. Although the concept of debt-for-drugs swaps was not a new one, the members of the Caribbean Community urged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to include a review of that idea in its report because of the advantages it could offer.

62. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme was responsible for coordinating activities in that area in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication of efforts. The CARICOM States were confident therefore that the studies currently being conducted by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and by WHO on women and drugs would not lead to any such duplication.

63. The CARICOM States agreed with the approach taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to its work at its thirty-fifth session. They welcomed in particular the Commission's decisions on its new monitoring responsibilities vis-à-vis the Global Programme of Action and the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as well as the budget-related activities outlined in paragraph 30 of document A/47/378.

64. The CARICOM States believed that the international drug control regime could only be effective if consideration was given to all international treaties on that subject. Some of those States had taken legislative action in anticipation of the adoption and entry into force of the 1988 Convention, and some States still reviewing that instrument had heeded the call to apply it provisionally. Thus, the comprehensive legal assistance to States provided by the International Drug Control Programme was very important. One aspect of particular interest was the organization of legal workshops for the Caribbean subregion and support for the drafting of model legislation to promote uniformity in the implementation of the Convention.

65. In the four years since its adoption, concrete action had been taken to implement specific articles of the Convention. At the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it had been proposed that a review of article 17, "Illicit traffic by sea", should be initiated. In the view of the CARICOM States, it would be useful to study the experience gained before taking further measures at the current stage. They also wished to see greater attention paid to the provisions of article 10 of the Convention, which concerned them directly as transit States.

66. The international drug control treaties laid down obligations which States undertook in order to control a transnational problem. By its nature, drug abuse control raised questions of jurisdiction and sovereignty. The

(Mr. Moultrie, Bahamas)

CARICOM States were of the opinion that all problems arising in the drug control field could be addressed in accordance with international law and they had no doubt that the Programme would work in conformity with accepted principles and norms.

67. The States of the Caribbean Community had taken note of the fact that the Intergovernmental Expert Group on the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which had been convened in 1990, had been able to make recommendations only on the part of its mandate relating to money laundering and had left pending the question of availability of reliable data owing to the lack of such data. For that reason, the study undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Defence in conjunction with the United Nations University and with the financial support of UNIDCP was important.

68. International Narcotics Control Board was one of the most important bodies in its field. The Caribbean Community noted that the system of licit control supervised by the Board continued to work satisfactorily and commended the Board for its assessment of the drug control situation world wide. In view of the important work carried out by UNIDCP, the Programme should be given the resources necessary to carry out its functions. He urged those countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund of UNIDCP.

69. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) resumed the Chair.

70. Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) said that the only real choice in dealing with the problem of narcotic drugs was multilateral cooperation, at the regional or global level. All the measures that had been adopted for that purpose by the United Nations had been effective. In that connection, the consolidation of UNIDCP was an important step towards strengthening international cooperation in combating the various aspects of the phenomenon of narcotic drugs.

71. The changes that had occurred in recent years in the conceptual approach to the problem of narcotic drugs had enabled the consumer, producer and transit countries to act in a coordinated manner and make use of the opportunities provided by multilateral cooperation. Nevertheless, there was a need now for new multilateral mechanisms that took account of the diversified use of narcotic drugs and related offences.

72. At the regional and the subregional levels, the harmonization of legislation and the exchange of logistic support systems, inter alia, had made it possible to find joint medium-term solutions. Nevertheless, regional efforts lacked communication systems making it possible to achieve maximum efficiency and required support in that area.

73. The international community had always attached priority to the control of illicit drug trafficking; and the various international instruments adopted by the United Nations were proof of that. Nevertheless, it now seemed that

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

the crises that had occurred since the end of the cold war had lessened the interest of world public opinion with regard to that question. The enormous capability of the criminal organizations engaged in illicit drug trafficking to resist international action, nevertheless, made it necessary to redouble efforts and clearly demonstrate the determination of the international community. The time had come to carry out an in-depth evaluation of the programmes implemented during the past seven years in order to find definitive solutions to the problem.

74. His delegation, in consultation with other interested delegations, was preparing a proposal, to be submitted to the Committee for its consideration, which defined the basis for carrying out such an evaluation in the spring of 1993 and reorient cooperation in that field.

75. The information provided by UNIDCP on national projects to reduce demand through preventive education in some developing countries was very useful and should be complemented with information on prevention, control and suppression of illicit drug trafficking in industrialized countries. Since demand, cultivation, production and illicit trafficking continued to increase throughout the world, there was also a need for information on the comparative results of the measures taken under the Programme.

76. Although his Government had taken numerous steps to combat drug trafficking, it was aware of the fact that it still had to adapt its policies in order to make them more effective. The efforts made by Mexico and other countries at the national level would be enhanced through the elaboration of an international convention on illicit demand reduction, as had been proposed in the Global Programme of Action adopted in 1990, as well as the establishment of an international system to evaluate drug abuse and demand reduction.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.21, L.22 and L.23)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21

77. Mrs. RALETICH (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat", said that Liechtenstein and the Republic of Korea had joined the sponsors and pointed out that, in spite of the progress made in improving the status of women in the Secretariat, the representation of women in senior-level posts was still insufficient. The draft resolution enjoyed the broad support of delegations and it was hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22

78. Mrs. HUKTAMAKI (Finland), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", said that Costa Rica, Greece and Sri Lanka had joined its sponsors. There were two oral amendments to paragraph 17. In the second line, the phrase "forty-eighth session" should be replaced by the words "forty-ninth session"; and in the third and fourth lines, the phrase "and to transmit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session" should be replaced by the phrase "and to make the report available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session".

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23

79. Mr. QURESHI (Pakistan), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", stressed the importance of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and the participation of women in preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights, as indicated in paragraphs 8 and 10 of the draft resolution. A revised version of paragraph 25 would be submitted in written form at a later date. It was hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.